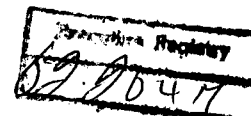
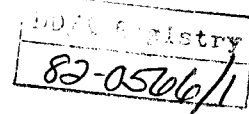
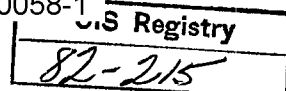


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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505



15 MAR 1982

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I have received your letter of 23 February in which you expressed concern about our delay in responding to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of the Inspector General's report on the Bay of Pigs. As I expressed in my last letter to you, the FOIA process in this Agency is slow and tedious. The CIA's records systems are decentralized, diverse, and compartmented. Each of the various components within the Agency maintains its records separately and indexes them in a way that is most efficient for its own use, i.e., for its own foreign intelligence-related responsibilities. Further, the handling of requests by this Agency is unique in that the search and any subsequent review must be conducted by intelligence officers with specialized knowledge and experience to ensure that intelligence sources and methods will be protected.

I appreciate your suggestion concerning the use of retired senior Agency personnel in reviewing documents for release under the FOIA. The Agency does indeed make use of retired Agency employees in the capacities you have described, and they are an invaluable asset to our FOIA process.

Although I realize the frustration this causes you and many other requesters, our current backlog of approximately 220 appeals similar to yours makes it impossible to respond as quickly as we would like. However, please be confident that we are making every effort to comply with the law.

I realize your research has been stymied by our lack of response, however, I can assure you that a reply to your request will be forthcoming as soon as feasible.

Sincerely,

B. R. Inman  
Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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